

REMARKS

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims are amended to better describe the Applicants' invention.

In Claim 1:

A period is included to properly end the sentence. Although the originally filed claim ends in a period this punctuation was left off the amendment of January 22, 2004. The current amendment is intended to correct this error.

In Claim 5:

In line 2 of the claim, the second usage of the limitation "octyloxyphenylphenyl" is misspelled as "octyloxyphenyphenyl". The current amendment corrects this error in spelling.

In Claim 10:

In line 1 the words "single component" are DELETED as unnecessary and confusing. The change is made in order to clarify the claim and to better describe the invention. Support is found at page 7, lines 1 – 5; page 11, lines 3 – 13; and original claim 7, now canceled.

In Claim 15:

In line 2 of the claim, the second usage of the limitation "octyloxyphenylphenyl" is misspelled as "octyloxyphenyphenyl". The current amendment corrects this error in spelling.

Applicants assert that No New Matter has been introduced as the result of the foregoing amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraphs are amended to better describe the Applicants' invention.

ON PAGE 1

In the paragraph BEGINNING in line 17, a semicolon is INSERTED AFTER the words "have disadvantageous features" in line 25; and the word "a" AFTER the words "Consequently, there are" is DELETED. The changes are made to correct the syntax of these sentences.

ON PAGE 2

In the paragraph BEGINNING in line 1, a comma is INSERTED AFTER the words "phenolic resins" in line 2 in order to correct the punctuation of these sentences.

ON PAGE 3 AND CONTINUING TO PAGE 4

In the paragraph BEGINNING in line 26, the word "slats" in line 9 AFTER the words "onium carboxylate" is DELETED and REPLACED with the word -- salts -- to correct the spelling of this word. Support is found in the inherency of the disclosure in this paragraph.

Applicants assert that No New Matter has been introduced as the result of the foregoing amendments.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Examiner's §1 – 2

Examiner has rejected Claims 10 – 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention in that Examiner asserts that there is confusion surrounding the limitation “single component” in the preamble. Examiner notes that “It is unclear as to how a photoresist composition could be prepared having only the polymer/copolymer, and contains no other additive such as a solvent.

Applicants' Response

Applicants thank the Examiner for her remarks and apologize for the lack of clarity and rigor used to claim the invention. It was Applicants' intention that Claim 10 recite the general description provided by paragraphs [0014] and [0015] of the published application (pages 4, lines 18 – 23 of the as-filed specification). In particular, Applicants recite that the “...OPPI hydroxide can then be added to acrylic/acrylic acid copolymer to form a single compound resist.” Clearly the mixture comprises more than a “single component” but the discussion recited at paragraph [0019] (Example 2) clearly suggests that a reaction product is formed between the OPPI hydroxide (the onium cation salt) and methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer (the carboxylic acid). It is the reaction product, therefore, that is the “single component”.

However, because the preamble of a claim is usually not considered to limit the scope of a claim (MPEP §2111.01) and, in any case, because the term “single component” is not necessary to give “life and meaning” to the claim, Applicants have removed this term from their claim in order to clarify the claimed subject matter by removing a potential source of confusion.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request entry of the amendment to Claim 10.

Applicants assert that they have removed the source of confusion of the original claim and, therefore, have cured the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Moreover, because each of Claims 11 – 16 depend from Claim 10 and further narrow the scope of this claim, Applicants assert that the rejection to these claims are also cured.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his rejection/objections and pass the amended claim to allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Examiner's §3

Examiner has allowed Claims 1 – 8.

Applicants' Response

Applicants thank the Examiner for her allowance of claims 1 – 8.

Applicant respectfully request, however, that the amendment to Claim 1, correcting a minor punctuation error, and the amendment to Claims 5, and 15, correcting a spelling error, be entered.

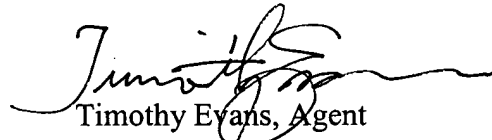
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully assert that by amending Claims 1, and 10 the instant invention now claims a unique method that is neither anticipated, suggested nor taught by the prior art. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims now presented and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

This response is:

Respectfully submitted by,

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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this Transmittal is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service on **JUNE 8, 2004**, in an envelope as First Class mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date of Deposit: 6-8-04

Liz Martinez
Person Making Deposit
Liz Martinez
Signature

Attachments:

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